

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AS-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /081 W

-----053357 050847Z /10

P R 050656Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7817

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 4216

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, MY, TH

SUBJECT: COMMENCEMENT OF JOINT MALAYSIAN/THAI ANTI-INSURGENCY  
OPERATION IN THE BETONG SALIENT

1. ACCORDING TO JULY 5 PRESS REPORTS, MUCH-DISCUSSED JOINT THAI/  
MALAYSIAN ANTI-INSURGENCY OPERATION AGAINST COMMUNIST TERRORISTS  
(CTS)

IN BETONG SALIENT WAS LAUNCHED AT 0630 ON JULY 4. OPERATION  
CODE NAMED CAHAYA-BENA I (SACRED RAY ONE). MALAYSIAN TROOPS CROSSED  
INTO THAILAND NEAR KEROH.

JOINT COMMANDERS ARE MAJOR GENERAL MAHMOOD BIN SULAIMAN FOR MALAYSIA  
AND GENERAL YUTHASAK KLONGTRUIJROK FOR THAILAND. COMMANDERS DID NOT  
REVEAL ACTUAL NUMBER OF TROOPS INVOLVED, BUT PRESS REPORTS REFERRED  
TO  
THOUSANDS OF MALAYSIAN TROOPS. OBJECT IS FLUSHING OUT AN ESTIMATED  
3,000 CTS IN BETONG SALIENT.

2. MALAYSIAN TROOPS INCLUDE ARMORED UNITS; MALAYSIAN ARTILLERY UNITS,  
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AND SOME COMMANDOS WERE AIRLIFTED BY HELICOPTER TO UNDISCLOSED  
OPERATIONAL AREAS. IN SUPPORT OF GROUND OPERATION OXJYBM 30-MINUTE  
JOINT AIR STRIKE WAS CARRIED  
OUT SHORTLY AFTER OPERATION CAHAYA-BENA I BEGAN. MALAYSIAN TEBUAN  
JETS AND THAI BRONCO OV10 FIGHTERS WERE USED. ON JULY 4 MAHMOOD  
EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT EARLY PROGRESS OF THE JOINT OPERATION. HE  
ADDED THAT MALAYSIA IS PREPARED TO COMMIT ADDITIONAL TROOPS IF

NECESSARY.

3. COMMENT: OPERATION CAHAYA-BENA I COMES AS NO SURPRISE AND HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WIDELY OVER PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. NEVERTHELESS, IT REMAINS A SUBSTANTIVE EFFORT AGAINST LONG-ESTABLISHED CT STRONGHOLDS, AND IS AN INDICATION OF CONTINUING THAI/MALAYSIAN COOPERATION ON A SUBJECT WHICH HAS BEEN A SORE POINT BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES FOR SEVERAL YEARS. MOST LIKELY MANY CTS HAVE FLED THE AREA OR PREPARED BOOBY-TRAPPED DEFENSES IN ANTICIPATION OF THIS OPERATION. HOWEVER, IF OPERATION CAHAYA-BENA I DESTROYS LONG-ENTRENCHED CT CAMPS AND SUPPORT MECHANISMS AND DISRUPTS CT ABILITY TO OPERATE IN THE AREA EVEN FOR JUST A YEAR, IT CAN BE COUNTED A SUCCESS.  
MILLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COUNTERINSURGENCY, COMBAT OPERATIONS, TERRORISTS, COMMUNISTS  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** COMMENCEMENT OF JOINT MALAYSIAN/THAI ANTI-INSURGENCY OPERATION IN THE BETONG SALIENT  
**TAGS:** MOPS, MY, TH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/18245171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009